

are taken from the democratic newspaper published at that place:

"While a number of revolutionary soldiers were being introduced to Gen. Cass, one of our citizens approached the General, and asked if he remembered him. Upon replying that he did not, he gave the following account of their first meeting: 'In the spring of 1813, Fort Meigs was besieged by the British and Indians, and the militia of Ohio were called out to march to the relief of the fort. Gen. Cass was appointed to the command. Six thousand assembled at Upper Sandusky, of whom two thousand were selected to proceed on to the fort. The marshes and woods were filled with water, making the roads almost impassable. The commanding general had not yet arrived, but was daily expected. On the second day of the march, a young soldier, from exposure to the weather, was taken sick. Unable to march in the ranks, he followed along in the rear. When at a distance behind, attempting with difficulty to keep pace with his comrades, two officers rode along, one a stranger, and the other the colonel of his regiment. On passing him, the colonel remarked, 'General, that poor fellow there is sick; he is a good fellow though, for he refuses to go back; but I fear that he will die before we get to Fort Meigs.' The officer halted, and dismounted from his horse. When the young soldier came up, he addressed him: 'My brave boy, you are sick and tired, I am well and strong; mount my horse and ride.' The soldier hesitated. Do not wait, said the officer, and lifting him upon his horse, with directions to ride straight to the general's tent, he proceeded on foot to join the army. At night, the young soldier rode to the tent, where he was met by the general with a cheerful welcome, which he repaid with tears of gratitude. That officer was General Cass, and the young soldier was the person addressing him, our worthy fellow citizen, John Laylin. The General, remembering the circumstance, immediately recognized him. Mr. Laylin remarked, 'General, that act was not done for the world to look upon; it was done in the woods, with but three witnesses.'"

"Another: Our old friend Major Turke, on being introduced to Gen. Cass, exclaimed, with much animation, 'General, I thank God that I am able to see you! I fought by the side of your father, Jonathan Cass, and your uncle, Daniel Cass, at the battle of Bunker's Hill. Your father was sergeant of the company, and I was a corporal. We were brothers together during the war. God bless you, General, for his sake.' The General was deeply affected in meeting the friend and companion of his father, while the old veteran, with eyes sparkling, recounted the scenes through which they passed together in the days of danger and strife—the times that 'tried men's souls.'"

Another anecdote of General Cass, while on his tour through Ohio, was related with much spirit by the late gallant and lamented Gen. Hunter. The carriage containing Gen. Cass was one day stopped by a man, who, addressing the General, said: 'I called you pass without speaking to you. You don't know me, General.' Gen. Cass replied that he did not. 'Well, sir, (said he) I was the first man in your regiment to jump out of the boat on the Canadian shore.' 'No, you were not, (said Gen. Cass); I was the first man myself on shore.' 'True, (said the other) I jumped out first into the river, to get at the bottom of the boat, but you held me back, and got on shore ahead of me.'"

The result of the contest in 1844 is well known. The vote of every western State, save one, and that by a meagre majority, was given for Mr. Polk. To the efforts of General Cass, and his great personal popularity exerted in favor of Mr. Taylor, this is to be attributed. In the following winter, General Cass was elected to the Senate of the United States, and took his seat on the 4th of March, 1845. In the formation of the committees of the Senate, Gen. Cass was unanimously tendered the post of Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which, however, he declined. On two subsequent occasions, the same position was offered him, but he has uniformly declined it.

In December, 1845, General Cass introduced resolutions in the Senate relative to the national defenses, with particular reference to the condition of our affairs with Great Britain, growing out of the Oregon question. These resolutions were supported in a speech, in which the following is an extract, referring to the course which should be pursued in maintaining our rights to the territory in question:

"As to receding, it is neither to be discussed nor thought of. I refer to it but to denounce it—a denunciation which will find a response in every American bosom. Nothing is ever gained by national pusillanimity. And the country which seeks to purchase temporary security by yielding to unjust pretensions, lays present ease at the expense of permanent honor and safety. It sows the wind, to reap the whirlwind. I have said elsewhere, what I will repeat here, that it is better to fight for the first inch of national territory than for the last. It is better to defend the door than the hearthstone—the porch than the altar. National character is a richer treasure than gold and silver, and exercises a more potent influence in the hour of danger, which, if not power itself, is its sure ally. Thus far, ours is untarnished; and let us all join, however separated by party or by space, so to preserve it."

In the month of March following, General Cass delivered his celebrated speech on the Oregon question. As this speech has been circulated and read very generally, a mere allusion to it here is all that would appear necessary; and the following extract expresses so fully the sentiment of every patriotic American, that it is worthy of record:

"It pains me, sir, to hear allusions to the destruction of this government, and to the dissolution of this Confederacy. It pains me, not because they inspire me with any fear, but because we ought to have no unpronounceable word, as the Jews had of old, and exercise a more potent influence in the hour of danger, which, if not power itself, is its sure ally. Thus far, ours is untarnished; and let us all join, however separated by party or by space, so to preserve it."

"Many a child has craved in my day, but the angry has failed, and the republic has marched onward. Many a crisis has presented itself to the imagination of our political prosperity, as we have increased in years, and that, too, with an accelerated progress unknown to the history of the world. We have a class of men whose eyes are always upon the future, overlooking the blessings around us, and forever apprehensive of some great political evil, which is to arrest our course somewhere or other on this side of the millennium. To them we are the image of gold,

and silver, and brass, and clay, contrariety in unity, with the first rude blow of misfortune it is struck from its pedestal."

"For my own part, I consider this the strongest government on the face of the earth for good, and the weakest for evil. Strong, because supported by the public opinion of a people inferior to none of the communities of the earth in all this constitutes moral worth and useful knowledge, and who have breathed into their political system the breath of life; and who would destroy it, as they created it, if it were unworthy of them, or failed to fulfill their just expectations."

"And weak for evil, from this very consideration, which would make its fallies and its faults the signal of its overthrow. It is the only government in existence which no revolution subverts. It may be changed; but it provides for its own change, when the public will requires. Plots and insurrections, and the various struggles by which an oppressed population manifests its sufferings and seeks the recovery of its rights, have no place here. We have nothing to fear but ourselves."

The part taken by General Cass in the subsequent exciting controversy on this question, and his vote in opposition to the treaty, are too well known to require further notice. Having been trained in the school which taught him, in any intercourse with foreign nations, to ask for nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing that is wrong, he had the moral courage to stand up for the right, whatever might be the consequences.

During the session of Congress, hostilities commenced between the United States and the republic of Mexico. Gen. Cass advocated the most energetic measures for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and for carrying it into the heart of the enemy's country.

In the winter of 1847, the "Wilnot Provision" was introduced into the Senate, as an amendment to the three-million bill, by a federal senator from New England. The design of the measure was evidently to defeat the passage of the bill to which it was to be attached, and to embarrass the administration in the prosecution of the war. Gen. Cass voted against the proviso, for reasons given in his speech on the occasion. It was during the sessions of this Congress that the tariff of 1846, and the independent treasury bill, were introduced. It was not alone the exclusive champion of free trade, and the ultra advocate of a hard-money currency, that the opponents of protection, and the enemies of a paper currency, are to look for the defeat of these measures. Such men are usually in the pursuit of some little practical abstraction, which gives them but little influence with practical men. But it is to men of enlarged and liberal views, whose strong character and influence carry conviction with their action, that the country is indebted for radical and beneficial reforms. General Cass gave to these great measures the weight of his influence, and his zealous and unflinching support. At the close of that Congress, General Cass was invited by the democratic members of the legislature of New York, to participate of a dinner at Albany, as a mark of their appreciation of his brilliant public services, and their estimation of his character as a man. This honor, however, he declined.

In August following, he delivered an address before the literary societies of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, at the annual commencement of that institution. The societies afterwards prepared an elegant gold-headed cane, with appropriate devices, which was presented to him in Washington on the 4th of March, 1848.

On the meeting of the present Congress, Gen. Cass was elected chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs—a post for which he was eminently qualified, and which, as he had been unanimously selected, he considered it his duty to accept. His course as chairman of that committee, and his views upon the war question, have been seen in the daily proceedings of the Senate. The following brief reply to Mr. Mangum is probably as good a summary of his opinions as can be given:

"Now, with respect to the progress of the war, it is said that General Scott is going on from town to town, and from city to city, conquering all before him. I am very glad to hear it. I hope that the commanding general will continue to go on in this way. If he does so, I have no doubt he will conquer Mexican obstinacy, and thus conquer a peace. I have already expressed my opinions with regard to the war in Mexico, and have nothing to say on the subject now, except to let the senator from South Carolina, that the adoption of resolutions in this Senate with regard to any danger of a war, is a danger there be—in the progress of this war would be but as the idle wind. You might as well stand by the entrance of Niagara, and say to its waters 'flow not,' as to the American people 'annex not territory,' if they choose to annex it. It is the policy of the Mexican people to do us justice, that prolongs this war. It is that which operates on the public mind, and leads the senator from North Carolina to apprehend a state of things which he fears, but which, for myself, I do not anticipate. Let me say, Mr. President, that it takes a great deal to kill this country. We have had an alarming crisis almost every year a long time. I am, however, confident, that we are a spectator before Mr. Jefferson was elected. That was a crisis. Then came the embargo, and the non-intercourse—of the war of the bank—the tariff—the removal of the deposits—and a score of others. But we have outlived them all, and advanced in all the elements of power and prosperity with a rapidity that is unparalleled in the history of nations. If we should swallow Mexico to-morrow, I do not believe it would kill us. The senator from South Carolina and myself may not live to see it, but I am by no means satisfied that the day will not come in which the whole of the vast country around us will form one of the most magnificent empires that the world has yet seen—glorious in the establishment and perpetuation of the principles of free government and the blessings which they bring with them."

In December, 1847, Gen. Cass gave his views at length upon the "Wilnot Provision," in a letter to Mr. Nicholson, of Tennessee. In that letter he vowed himself opposed to the measure, and to the exercise of any legislation by Congress over any of the territories of the United States, respecting the domestic relations of their inhabitants. He believed that all questions of that nature should be settled by the people themselves, who ought to be allowed "to regulate their internal concerns in their own way;" and that Congress has no more power to abolish or establish slavery in such territories, than it has to regulate any other of the relative duties of social life, of husband and wife, of parents and child, or of master and servant. He said in conclusion:

"The Wilnot Provision seeks to take from its legitimate tribunal a question of domestic policy, having no relation to the Union as such, and to transfer it to another, created by the people for a special purpose, and foreign to the subject-matter involved in this issue. By going back to our true principles, we go back to the road of peace and safety. Leave to the people who will be affected by this question, to adjust it upon their own responsibility, and in their own manner. To them we are the image of gold,

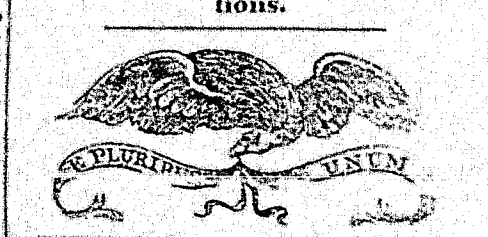
and silver, and brass, and clay, contrariety in unity, with the first rude blow of misfortune it is struck from its pedestal."

original principles of our government, and furnish another guaranty for its permanence and prosperity."

The Democratic State Convention of Ohio, on the 8th of January, 1848, declared in favor of Gen. Cass for the presidency, with a unanimity unequalled in the previous history of the State. Although there was much difference of opinion in the selection of a candidate for governor, yet the popular sentiment in favor of General Cass, and the conviction that with him as the candidate their State could be placed among the foremost of the democratic States of the Union, induced an almost unanimous expression in his favor. (At the last election in the State of Ohio, the popular vote was democratic by a majority 1,663.) The State convention in Michigan has also unanimously placed him in nomination for the presidency. In the Democratic State Convention of Pennsylvania, held at Harrisburg on the 4th of March, 1848, a resolution, in the highest degree complimentary to Gen. Cass, was unanimously reported by the committee, and adopted with acclamation by the convention.

The Democratic National Convention, which met at Baltimore on the 23d of May, by its final action, unanimously placed Gen. Cass in nomination for the presidency. Public opinion, looking to his brilliant services, sterling integrity, and unflinching fidelity, had pointed to him as THE MAN FOR THE TIMES, and the proper exponent of the American democracy. Plain and unassuming in his manners, kind and generous to a fault, frank and loyal in his intercourse with his fellow-men, he is, in every sense of the word, A DEMOCRAT.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.
"The Union must be preserved."
PARIS, MAINE, JUNE 13, 1848.
Democratic Republican Nominations.



ELECTION, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7.
FOR PRESIDENT,
GEN. LEWIS CASS,
OF MICHIGAN.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
GEN. WILLIAM O. BUTLER,
OF KENTUCKY.

Ratification Meeting.
There will be a meeting of DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANS at the Court House, in this Village, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, (14th inst.), immediately after the adjournment of Court, for the purpose of responding to the nominations for President and Vice President made by the recent Convention at Baltimore. A general invitation is extended.
FOR ORDER.

Voice to the People.
[CONTINUED.]

The people will soon be called upon again to exercise their constitutional franchise in the election of a President and Vice President of the United States. The several candidates are now in the field, subject to the decision of the people who will make up their decision in favor of the men that have acted from principle, favorably to the great interests of the country. To freshen our own memories, and to awaken in our minds, the importance of this high duty to our country; and to assist each other, if we can, in a proper performance of it, is the purpose that should animate every heart. In essaying to accomplish an object of such high national concern, we shall resort to the cool light of reason and a faithful history of the times; and eschew the malignity of party strife, and the passionate abuse of political opponents. We consider, indeed, too largely in the general sense of the justice of the people to believe, and feel an interest in their glory and felicity, too careful to desire, that any considerations should control their course, which enlightened reason would repudiate, or public policy condemn. The majesty of the multitude redounds to the benefit of the few. The great cause of humanity can alone advance under auspices of national wisdom. We would avert, too, from the heart, and understanding the prevalence of every sectional feeling and partiality whatever. And looking on the Presidential election with an anxious solicitude for the lasting prosperity of our common country—no one could feel indifferent as to its results.

In these confederate States, political parties are the inevitable concomitants of our Republican system; and seem inseparable from that latitudinal freedom, which usage sanctions, and organic law secures; and which originated in the wisdom of our ancestors, and was achieved by their valor and perseverance. From the very childhood of this Republic to the present gigantic vigor of her growth, rival parties have existed among us, and have constantly contended for lead and dominion in the national councils. And hence, in a country so ample and free, where the theatre of competition is open to all—where the fortunes of the whole Union may depend on a single political resolve, no person can receive the crowning honors of the nation without a previous submission of the principles and conduct of his political life to the general examination and approval of his fellow-men.

The foremost man that the country has produced was not exempted from the unreserved scrutiny, that has ever since awaited every incumbent of the Presidential office.

To regulate this public scrutiny in a spirit of truth, candor and impartiality, is the dictate of justice and the duty of patriotism. The wrongs that are offered to the free spirit of our institutions, by the general, indiscriminate tradition of our public characters, are never obliterated nor redressed by the political advancement of any individual. Persecution alienates the heart

that justice wins. It tarnishes the honor, and impairs the utility of the public service. It raises up discontents against the cause of government, and weakens the general confidence in the prevalence of wisdom and virtue. We shall endeavor, therefore, to avoid this baneful spirit of persecution and injustice towards those who may differ from us in the views and opinions we truly entertain, and shall endeavor to communicate to you only in the spirit of candor, on the subject of our political affairs.

No subject in politics has created a greater diversity of opinion, nor more widely separated political parties in the United States, than the principle of construction applied to the Federal Constitution. The Latitudinians party, styled Monarchists in 1776, Federalists in 1798, Federal Republicans in 1812, National Republicans in 1825, and Whigs now, have always labored to deduce from vague, indefinite and repudiated phrases in the Constitution, revolving, constructive and implied powers; powers, far exceeding in their magnitude and tendency, any that have been expressly delegated in the instrument itself. The powers concealed in those portentous phrases, and which have been brought forward, maintained and vindicated with boldness and perseverance, were discerned and repudiated by the very statesmen who advocated the ratification of the Federal Constitution. And every candid mind, acquainted with the history of this country, must admit, that if the powers since claimed, exercised and persisted in by this Latitudinarian party, had not been expressly disclaimed when the Constitution was struggling into life, that Constitution would never have been ratified by the requisite number of our States, nor adopted by the Convention whose wisdom bequeathed it to the world. Yet, from vague, indefinite and repudiated interpretations of the Constitution, have originated the doctrines, among many others, in defence of the Alien and Sedition Laws—the doctrines which gave a supervisory control to the Federal Judiciary over the sovereignty of the States—the doctrines which created the U. S. Bank; the doctrines which quartered upon our onerous protective Tariff duties, to enrich the few at the expense of the multitude, and to enable the General Government to expend the national treasure in the construction of magnificent roads and canals through the various States, and many other doctrines, for which the Federalists generally voted in solemn column, occasionally leading off with them, under some local influence, a few of the Republican party. The Republican party have uniformly exerted their influence against the exercise of each of the powers claimed by the Federalists.

These are but some of the unwarrantable doctrines of the Latitudinarian Constructionists of the Constitution—doctrines that have never been extinct nor still—which have been often pressed into the Federal councils of this country—and which, should they prevail and direct the settled policy of the nation, must quickly consolidate the confederate States.

We may trace their baleful origin in this country to that extraordinary man, Alexander Hamilton, who migrated to our shores from a British Isle, and who brought along with him all those prolific seeds of Monarchy, which, under his fostering care, were destined to sprout up in thick and fearful profusion in our free and fertile soil.

With a military frankness in his mind and purpose, he went from the army of the Revolution into the Convention that framed the Constitution, where, with his usual boldness and ability, he advocated a President and Senate for life, and the appointment by the General Government, of the Governors of the States, with a negative on State Laws.

On a failure to accomplish these anti-republican purposes, he retired from the Convention and left the arduous labors of free Government to other hands. But afterwards finding in the Constitution some general undefined powers to raise revenue, and to declare war, he advocated the adoption of that instrument, on a calculation that such powers would enable him to make the government in practice, what he failed to accomplish in its obvious structure and positive provisions.

This scheme was to encourage the opulent classes of society to rely upon the government to pamper and integrate their way; and, consequently, to make them the selfish and mercenary supporters of the national measures.

He avowed the opinion, and no doubt honestly, that nothing but force or interest could govern men; and as force was quite an impracticable engine in a country, so strong, so valiant and free, he appealed to the interests of the Legislature itself, to keep that body, too, in service with the Executive Department.

This calculation on the selfish depravity of man was deeply seated in his mind; and, became the early, lingering star—the favorite cynosure by which he constantly steered his course, and around which his exulting hope and political aspirations delighted to play.

After the adoption of the Constitution he was placed at the head of the Treasury Department, where he fashioned and elaborated those seductive contrivances of State, so full of danger to Republican freedom, and which might have enabled some aspirant to seduce the national morals, and to triumph over the corrupted body of the Republic, and slander her immortal name in the celebration of departed liberty.

Among the seductive and demoralizing measures of Gen. Hamilton, and they were considered by Republicans, must be prominently placed the act for funding and paying the public debt, the Assumption Act, to enable Congress to discharge the separate debts of the States that never contracted their obligations in the common cause of the Union, and the act to incorporate the Bank of the United States. The Federal party has from that time to the present, uni-

formly given such a construction to the Constitution as to greatly enlarge the powers of the General Government, whilst the Republican party has as uniformly denied to Congress and to the Executive, every power not expressly granted or not necessary to the execution of such as were so granted. The leaders of the Federal party were Hamilton, the elder Adams, Pickens, King, &c.; those of the Republican party were Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Giles, Randolph, &c.

Thus far we have traced the origin and progress of Federalism; and to confirm the truth of the preceding remarks, we may appeal to the published declarations of Jefferson, in our next, and we may also refer to the annals of the age, and to the testimony of eminent public men of all parties, to prove that the Bank of the United States was not only a financial agent, but a political machine; that the fathers and advocates of the Bank designed and recommended it as such; and that it was a Federal measure, opposed by the Republican party, notwithstanding the Whigs now pretend that it has always been a Republican measure. We shall do this, not for the purpose of discussing the merits or demerits of the U. S. Bank—for the Whigs have declared that obsolete, but for the purpose of tracing the Federal party, with their measures, down to the present time, as we find it under the assumed name of Whig, and showing that whoever votes for any man supported by the Whigs, votes the Federal ticket, and in favor of old Federal measures, or for measures equally odious, which they would most assuredly adopt, if in their power. Federalism is Federalism still. The Republican party remains the same—Men only have changed.

LETTER FROM GEN. CASS.
The following is Gen. Cass letter in reply to that of the Committee of the Baltimore Convention, announcing his nomination as a candidate for the Presidency:

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1848.
GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., announcing to me that I have been nominated by the Convention of the Democratic party as a candidate for the office of President of the United States, at the approaching election.

While I accept, with deep gratitude, this distinguished honor, and distinguished indeed it is—I do so, with a fearful apprehension of the responsibility it may eventually bring with it, and with a profound conviction that it is the kind confidence of my fellow-citizens, far more than any merit of my own, which has placed me thus prominently before the American people. And fortunate shall I be, if this confidence should find, in the events of the future, a better justification than is furnished by those of the past.

I have carefully read the resolutions of the Democratic National Convention, laying down the platform of our political faith, and I adhere to them as firmly, as I approve them cordially. And while thus adhering to them, I shall do so with a sacred regard to "the principles and compromises of the constitution," and with an earnest desire for their maintenance "in a spirit of moderation and brotherly love, so vitally essential to the perpetuity of the Union, and the prosperity and happiness of our common country."—A feeling which has made us what we are, and which, in humble reliance upon Providence, we may hope is but the beginning of what we are to be. If called upon hereafter to render an account of my stewardship, in the great trust you desire to commit to me, should I be able to show that I had truly redeemed the pledge thus publicly given, and had adhered to the principles of the democratic party with as much fidelity and success as have generally marked the administration of the eminent men to whom the party has hitherto confided the chief executive authority of the government, I could prefer no higher claim to the favorable consideration of the country, nor to the impartial commendation of history.

This letter, gentlemen, closes my professions of political faith. Receiving my first appointment from that pure patriot and great exponent of American democracy, Mr. Jefferson, more than forty years ago, the intervening period of my life has been almost wholly passed in the service of my country, and has been marked by many vicissitudes, and attended with many trying circumstances, both in peace and war. If my conduct in these situations, and the opinions I have been called upon to form express, from time to time, in relation to all the party topics of the day, do not furnish a clear exposition of my views respecting them, and, at the same time, a sufficient pledge of my faithful adherence to their practical application, whenever and wherever I may be required to act, anything further I might now say would be mere delusion, unworthy of myself, and justly, offensive to the party in whose name you are now acting.

My immediate predecessor in the nomination of the democratic party, who has since established so many claims to the regard and confidence of his country, when announcing, four years ago, his acceptance of a similar honor, announced also his determination not to be a candidate for re-election. Coinciding with him in his views, so well expressed, and so faithfully carried out, I beg leave to say, that no circumstances can possibly arise, which would induce me again to permit my name to be brought forward in connection with the chief magistracy of our country. My inclination and my sense of duty equally dictate this course.

No party, gentlemen, had ever higher motives for exertion, than has the great democratic party of the United States. With an abiding confidence in the rectitude of our principles, with an unshaken reliance upon the energy and wisdom of public opinion, and with the success which has crowned the administration of the

government when committed to its keeping, (and it has been so committed during more than three-fourths of its existence,)—what has been done is at once the reward of past exertion, and the motive for future, and, at the same time, a guaranty for the accomplishment of what we have to do. We cannot conceal from ourselves that there is a powerful party in the country, differing from us in regard to many of the fundamental principles of our government, and opposed to us in their practical application, which will strive as zealously as we shall, to securing the election of their candidate in the coming contest. That party is composed of our fellow-citizens, as deeply interested in the prosperity of our common country as we can be, and seeking as earnestly as we are to promote and perpetuate it. We shall soon present to the world the sublime spectacle of the election of a chief magistrate by twenty millions of people, without a single serious resistance to the laws, or the sacrifice of the life of one human being—and this, too, in the absence of all force but the moral force of our institutions; and, if we should add to all this, an example of mutual respect for the motives of the contending parties, so that the contest might be carried on with that firmness and energy which accompany deep conviction, and with as little personal asperity as political divisions permit, we should do more for the great cause of human freedom throughout the world, than by any other tribute we could render to its value.

We have a government founded by the will of all, responsible to the power of all, and administered for the good of all. The very first article in the democratic creed teaches that the people are competent to govern themselves: it is, indeed, rather an axiom than an article of political faith. From the days of Gen. Hamilton to our days the party opposed to us,—of whose principles he was the great exponent, if not the founder, while it has changed its name, has preserved essentially its identity of character; and the doubt he entertained and taught of the capacity of man for self-government, has remained a marked feature of our nation and nation. Here is the very starting-point of the difference between the two great parties which divide our country. All other differences are but subordinate and auxiliary to this, and may, in fact, be resolved into it. Looking with doubt upon the issue of self-government; one party is prone to think the public authority should be strengthened, and to fear any change, lest that change might weaken the necessary force of the government; while the other, strong in its convictions of the intelligence and virtue of the people, believe that original power is safer than delegated, and that the solution of the great problem of good government consists in governing with the least force, and leaving individual action as free from restraint as is compatible with the preservation of the social system, thereby securing to each all the freedom which is essential to the well-being of the whole.

As a party, we ought not to mistake the signs of the times, but should bear in mind, that this is an age of progress—of advancement in all the elements of intellectual power, and in the opinions of the world. The general government should assume no powers. It should exercise none which have not been clearly granted by the parties of the federal compact. We ought to construe the constitution strictly, according to the received and sound principles of the Jeffersonian school. But, while rash experiments should be deprecated, if the government is stationary in its principles of action, and refuses to accommodate its measures, within its constitutional sphere—cautiously, indeed, but wisely and cheerfully,—to the advancing sentiments and necessities of the age, it will find its moral force impaired, and the public will determined to do what the public authority itself should readily do, when the indications of popular sentiment are clear, and clearly expressed.

With great respect, gentlemen, I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

LEWIS CASS.
Hon. A. STEVENSON.
President of the Democratic Convention, and The Vice Presidents of the same.

GEN. CASS A FEDERALIST.

The federal papers have fixed upon this charge, as one of the grounds of opposition to Gen. Cass. This is absolutely too absurd to answer. The Ohio Statesman thus notices it: The Zanesville Courier, in speaking of the nomination of Gen. Cass, re-vents the exploded calumny that he was once a federalist. The Courier is probably not aware, that Gen. Cass in early days lived in Muskingum county—that by its Democracy, he was elected to the first office he ever filled, and that among the old citizens, Gen. Herick, Dr. Hanna, Mr. Mitchell, John Corley, of Dresden, and others, whose democracy is above and beyond suspicion, the fact can clearly be established that Lewis Cass was once a true Democratic principles, and at the very time the Federal presses charge him with Federalism, he was the Democratic candidate for a seat in the Legislature.

We may add to the above, that he was only about twenty-four years old when Jefferson appointed him to office, and that since that time he has received high appointments from Madison Jackson and Van Buren. These men were not very apt to appoint federalists to post of honor. The Advertiser, of course, greedily snatches at these slanders, and says that Gen. Cass wore a black cockade on his hat sometime between 1799—1800. At that period Lewis was a youth sixteen years of age! [Laughs.]

Adjutant General Redington, in his annual report on the condition of the Militia of this State, says no return can be made of the military force of the State, because the Militia System was virtually abolished by the Legislature of 1844.

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government when committed to its keeping, (and it has been so committed during more than three-fourths of its existence,)—what has been done is at once the reward of past exertion, and the motive for future, and, at the same time, a guaranty for the accomplishment of what we have to do. We cannot conceal from ourselves that there is a powerful party in the country, differing from us in regard to many of the fundamental principles of our government, and opposed to us in their practical application, which will strive as zealously as we shall, to securing the election of their candidate in the coming contest. That party is composed of our fellow-citizens, as deeply interested in the prosperity of our common country as we can be, and seeking as earnestly as we are to promote and perpetuate it. We shall soon present to the world the sublime spectacle of the election of a chief magistrate by twenty millions of people, without a single serious resistance to the laws, or the sacrifice of the life of one human being—and this, too, in the absence of all force but the moral force of our institutions; and, if we should add to all this, an example of mutual respect for the motives of the contending parties, so that the contest might be carried on with that firmness and energy which accompany deep conviction, and with as little personal asperity as political divisions permit, we should do more for the great cause of human freedom throughout the world, than by any other tribute we could render to its value.

We have a government founded by the will of all, responsible to the power of all, and administered for the good of all. The very first article in the democratic creed teaches that the people are competent to govern themselves: it is, indeed, rather an axiom than an article of political faith. From the days of Gen. Hamilton to our days the party opposed to us,—of whose principles he was the great exponent, if not the founder, while it has changed its name, has preserved essentially its identity of character; and the doubt he entertained and taught of the capacity of man for self-government, has remained a marked feature of our nation and nation. Here is the very starting-point of the difference between the two great parties which divide our country. All other differences are but subordinate and auxiliary to this, and may, in fact, be resolved into it. Looking with doubt upon the issue of self-government; one party is prone to think the public authority should be strengthened, and to fear any change, lest that change might weaken the necessary force of the government; while the other, strong in its convictions of the intelligence and virtue of the people, believe that original power is safer than delegated, and that the solution of the great problem of good government consists in governing with the least force, and leaving individual action as free from restraint as is compatible with the preservation of the social system, thereby securing to each all the freedom which is essential to the well-being of the whole.

As a party, we ought not to mistake the signs of the times, but should bear in mind, that this is an age of progress—of advancement in all the elements of intellectual power, and in the opinions of the world. The general government should assume no powers. It should exercise none which have not been clearly granted by the parties of the federal compact. We ought to construe the constitution strictly, according to the received and sound principles of the Jeffersonian school. But, while rash experiments should be deprecated, if the government is stationary in its principles of action, and refuses to accommodate its measures, within its constitutional sphere—cautiously, indeed, but wisely and cheerfully,—to the advancing sentiments and necessities of the age, it will find its moral force impaired, and the public will determined to do what the public authority itself should readily do, when the indications of popular sentiment are clear, and clearly expressed.

With great respect, gentlemen, I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

LEWIS CASS.
Hon. A. STEVENSON.
President of the Democratic Convention, and The Vice Presidents of the same.

GEN. CASS A FEDERALIST.

The federal papers have fixed upon this charge, as one of the grounds of opposition to Gen. Cass. This is absolutely too absurd to answer. The Ohio Statesman thus notices it: The Zanesville Courier, in speaking of the nomination of Gen. Cass, re-vents the exploded calumny that he was once a federalist. The Courier is probably not aware, that Gen. Cass in early days lived in Muskingum county—that by its Democracy, he was elected to the first office he ever filled, and that among the old citizens, Gen. Herick, Dr. Hanna, Mr. Mitchell, John Corley, of Dresden, and others, whose democracy is above and beyond suspicion, the fact can clearly be established that Lewis Cass was once a true Democratic principles, and at the very time the Federal presses charge him with Federalism, he was the Democratic candidate for a seat in the Legislature.

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